Encroachment of Defence Land

† 4158. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that seven crore and ninety one lakh acre land of cantonments of the whole country have been illegally encroached upon;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of encroached land in the cantonments, State-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for removing illegal encroachment from the cantonment land and for getting repossession of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d). An estimated area of 1293.36 acres (approx.) of defence land in cantonment areas are under encroachment. Most of the encroachments have occurred over a period of time. In the case of civil area of cantonments, encroachments are mostly by way of individuals extending their holdings and partly by way of slums that have come up over a period of time.

The details of encroachment of defence land in cantonment areas. State-wise, have been indicated in the Statement *(See* below).

Directions have been issued to Director General, Defence Estates and Services Headquarters to take action for removal of encroachments under the provisions of Cantonment Act, 1924 and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Act, 1971). An area of 135.663 acres of defence land was freed from encroachments during the last three years. The process of detection and removal of encroachments is a continuous exercise. Some of the encroachments are under litigation and hence their removal is subject to Court orders.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Encroachment of Defence land in Cantonment areas

Sl. No.	Name of State*	Approximate area under Encroachment (in acres)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.38
2.	Bihar	2.14
3.	Delhi	28.54
4.	Gujarat	0.88
5.	Haryana	214.58
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8.22
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.45
8.	Karnataka	4.15
9.	Kerala	1.40
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71.13
11.	Maharashtra	60.41
12.	Meghalaya	2.59
13.	Punjab	80.70
14.	Rajasthan	194.10
15.	Tamil Nadu	22.63
16.	Uttar Pradesh	555.46
17.	West Bengal	1.60
	TOTAL:	1293.36

*The details in respect of newly created States have not been indicated separately.